





# Abraham Lincoln's Vocations

Landowner

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

<sup>the</sup> Towns listed for taxation in the Town of  
 In whose name listed  
 J. H. Edwards

"  
 Wm Hargrave

"  
 R. B. Latham

"  
 Susan Fowler

"  
 Jacob Ricketson  
 Jacob Hower  
 Latham Hunt & Hox

"  
 J. W. Brown  
 C. Hingstford  
 George Cramer  
 " "

"  
 Wm Rankin

"  
 A. Lincoln  
 William Hargrave  
 Paul  
 Latham & Hunt  
 C. Living  
 Cramer & Francis  
 Geo W. Edgar  
 Edward Jones

"  
 Wm H. Young

"  
 John Hansen

"  
 School House  
 C. Living

" " "

" " "

# Lincoln for the year 1862 Parts of Lots

Lot Block valuation

	Dolls	Cents	Dolls	Cents	
1	18	800	2	00	paid ✓
2		125	31		paid ✓
3		600	1	50	paid ✓
4		125	31		paid ✓
5		125	31		paid ✓
6		125	31		paid ✓
7		125	31		paid ✓
8		550	1	37	paid ✓
9		400	1	00	paid ✓
10		300	75		paid ✓
11		100	25		paid ✓
12		100	25		paid ✓
13		300	75		paid ✓
14		300	75		paid ✓
15		125	31		paid ✓
16		250	62		paid ✓

1	19	1800	4	50	paid ✓
2		300	75		paid ✓
3		300	75		paid ✓
4		300	75		paid ✓
5		300	75		paid ✓
6		300	75		paid ✓
7		150	37		paid ✓
7		600	1	30	paid ✓
8		200	1	00	paid with cost ✓
8		125	31		paid ✓
8		1500	3	75	paid ✓
9		800	2	00	paid ✓
10		125	31		paid ✓
11		550	1	37	paid ✓
12		125	31		paid ✓
13					29
14		125	31		paid ✓
15		125	31		paid ✓
16		400	1	00	paid ✓
		19775	31	89	

S. E. 1/2  
 N. W. 1/2  
 15 feet front by 45 feet back  
 S. E. and S. E. side 15 + 102  
 N. Side 22 + 150.

Taken from the Tax  
Book, 1862, of Lincoln,  
Logan Co., Illinois, David Hummell  
Collector. Book owned by W. E. Pratt



Third page

Note given by M.B.Church Nov. 5, 1864 one  
at 5 mos. with int.

\$260.00

Supposed to be worthless and living  
in Springfield

Note given by William Patterson &  
Golden Patterson at Urbana

Dated Apl. 25 1859 A.D. year for

60.00

Note Thos. Stackpole Nov. 8 1861  
for money loaned

380.00

Real Estate in  
Lincoln, Logan Co. Ill.  
Lot 3 in Block 19  
Taxes paid except for '64

Note of A.L.Van Denn with int. @ 10%	Mch 18 1861	1000.00	)
Notes of N.W.Edwards " " "	Jan 16 1860	1587.90	)
Note of Smith Edwards & Co. " " "	Jan 16 1861	1000.00	)
Note of I.K. & Thos. Lewis " " "	Apr 22 1860	150.00	)
Note & Mortgage of Isaac Lindsay " "	Aug. 28 1860	600.00	)
Note & Mortgage of Wm. Clem " "	Nov 22 1859	750.00	)
Note & Mortgage of J.Ruckle " "	Sept 28 1860	500.00	)
Note of Mrs Cook " "	Apr 17 1860	750.00	)
One Springfield City Bond for		666.67	)
Note of N.B.Judd int. @ 10%	Sept 1 1859	3000.00	)
In hands of R. Irwin .....			)

Fourth page

One certificate of Six shares Alton & Sang. R.R.

✓ Policy of Insurance

Lease of House

"Notes on Hand"

)  
)  
) In Mr. Irwin's  
) possession  
)  
)  
)

For Harry E. Pratt.

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S FARM**

Among the records of the Bankers Life Company of Des Moines is one of rare historical interest because it is the Abstract of Title of the only farm ever owned by Abraham Lincoln. The Bankers Life Company has a mortgage on this farm which was once the property of the martyr president.

The Lincoln farm is located in Iowa, six and one-half miles northwest of Denison in Crawford county. There are one hundred and twenty acres in the tract and it became the property of Abraham Lincoln on September 10, 1860, when he filed on the land with a warrant signed by James Buchanan who was then president and whom Mr. Lincoln was so soon to succeed. This was during the first campaign of Mr. Lincoln for president. He was entitled to the land grant because of his services as captain of the company of volunteers which he raised for the Black Hawk Indian war in 1832. The farm was still his property when he was shot down by Assassin Booth. It remained in the Lincoln family until 1892 when Robert Lincoln, who was then ambassador to Great Britain, deeded it to Henry Edwards. Mr. Edwards bought the land for \$1,300 or about \$10.00 an acre and he sold it in the same year to Peter F. Jepson for \$1,925.00. Mr. Jepson still owns the farm and it is now estimated to be worth at least \$125.00 an acre or \$15,000 in all. Another interesting thing in connection with this Lincoln farm is the fact that it is located near the route of the Lincoln Highway which was named in honor of President Lincoln.

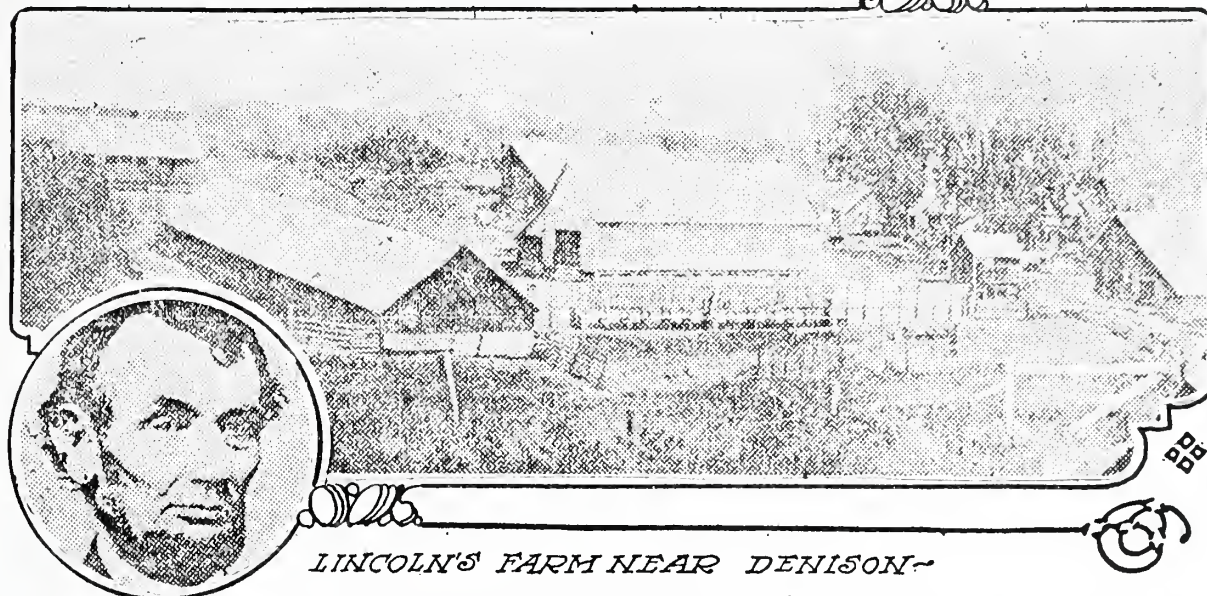


By JEREMY LANE

Copyright, 1919, by The Century Co.

# A Tale of Love

## Only Land Lincoln Ever Owned Was at Denison, Ia.



LINCOLN'S FARM NEAR DENISON-

Almost within sight of the Lincoln highway, just a few miles out of Denison, Ia., lies the only piece of ground Abraham Lincoln ever owned.

It is rather a poor farm, as Iowa farms go, for it is rough and hilly, good only for stock feeding. It is hard to find, and he who seeks it must wander around in the hills out of Denison before he locates it.

The farm was decided to Lincoln for his service in the Blackhawk war, and though he never lived on it, there is reason to believe that he was planning when public life was over to retire to his Iowa farm and spend the remainder of his days there.

Booth's deed at Ford's opera house put an end to his plans.

When Lincoln fell, a martyr before the assassin's gun, he left his farm to his son, Robert Todd Lincoln. It remained in young Lincoln's hands for some years.

The records at Denison show the land to have undergone the following changes of title:

Patent from the United States government to Abraham Lincoln.

Abraham Lincoln to Robert Todd Lincoln, his son.

Robert Todd Lincoln to Henry Edwards.

Henry Edwards to E. T. Cochran.

E. T. Cochran to Peter F. Jepson.

Peter F. Jepson to Jurgen Jep-

son and Julius Jepson, his sons.

The "Abe Lincoln Farm" of 120 acres was kept intact until the death of Peter Jepson, when it was divided, forty acres to Julius and eighty to Jurgen.

Opposite the name of Lincoln, in the Denison records, some one has written in the script of bygone days:

"Rail president-elect, for services in Blackhawk war, captain."

The patent was signed by James Buchanan, whom Lincoln was destined so soon to succeed.

Lincoln became an owner of Iowa real estate Sept. 10, 1860, four months after he had been nominated for the presidency, and two months prior to his election.

### Lincoln Owned Iowa Farm

Almost within sight of the Lincoln highway, just a few miles out of Denison, Ia., lies the only piece of ground Abraham Lincoln ever owned.

1820

It is rather a poor farm, as Iowa farms go, for it is rough and hilly, good only for stock feeding. It is hard to find, and he who seeks it must wander around in the hills out of Denison before he locates it.

The farm was deeded to Lincoln for his service in the Blackhawk war, and though he never lived on it, there is reason to believe that he was planning when public life was over to retire to his Iowa farm and spend the remainder of his days there.

Booth's deed at Ford's opera house put an end to his plans.

When Lincoln fell, a martyr before the assassin's gun, he left his farm to his son, Robert Todd Lincoln. It remained in young Lincoln's hands for some years.

The record at Denison shows the land to have undergone the following changes of title:

Patent from the United States government to Abraham Lincoln.

Abraham Lincoln to Robert Todd Lincoln, his son.

Robert Todd Lincoln to Henry Edwards.

Henry Edwards to E. T. Cochran.

E. T. Cochran to Peter F. Jepson.

Peter F. Jepson to Jurgen Jepson and Julius Jepson, his sons. The "Abe Lincoln Farm" of 120 acres was kept intact until the death of Peter Jepson, when it was divided forty acres to Julius and eighty to Jurgen.

Opposite the name of Lincoln, in the Denison records, some one has written in the script of bygone days:

"Rail president-elect, for services in Blackhawk war, captain."

The patent was signed by James Buchanan, whom Lincoln was destined so soon to succeed.

Lincoln became an owner of Iowa real estate Sept. 10, 1860, four months after he had been nominated for the presidency and two months prior to his election.—Daily Register.

In order to keep history straight J. B. McHose of Boone has been tracing the land in Iowa once held by Abraham Lincoln. One tract is located in Crawford county and the other in Tama county. Carl F. Kuehnle, banker of Denison, supplied some data to Mr. McHose on the land in Crawford county. It consists of 120 acres six and a half miles northwest of Denison, and was deeded by Robert T. Lincoln, while he was ambassador to England March 22, 1892, to Henry Edwards. C. L. Voss in turn acquired it under contract which was then assigned to Henry F. Jepson, who then deeded it to Peter F. Jepson. At last accounts Mr. Jepson still owned the land. Charles Berry of Toledo, is now owner of the Lincoln land in Tama county eight miles northwest of Tama in Howard township. It was deeded in 1874 by Robert T. Lincoln to Adam Brecht, and Mr. Brecht's heirs are still the owners.

\* \* \* 1823

ism

### "Old Abe's" Iowa Farm.

Jurgen Jepson, a resident of Goodrich township, Crawford county, has the honor of owning the farm that was owned at one time by Abraham Lincoln. It was a tract of unbroken prairie when Lincoln secured it. The tract is not far from Denison. The historical setting of the place has prompted the Daughters of the American Revolution to start a movement looking toward the placing of a permanent marker in a conspicuous place on the farm. The city of Jefferson, Greene county, being on the Lincoln Highway, has erected a monument in honor of the memory of the great president in the courthouse square, facing the highway.

1822

## FIND NEW LINCOLN PROPERTY

Logan County Clerk Proves Great  
Emancipator Paid Taxes at  
Lincoln, Ill.

12-2 '82  
Lincoln, Ill.—Proof that Abraham Lincoln owned property other than the "Lincoln homestead" in Springfield was established here when County Clerk Mowery uncovered in the basement of the Logan county courthouse a musty tax collector's book of 1858, containing Lincoln's signature on a receipt for \$2.40. It had long been contended that Lincoln once owned property here in the city that bears his name, but no records could be found to support the claim.

The property on which Lincoln paid taxes in 1858 is in the south side of the courthouse square. The present owner, D. H. Harts, paid \$114.15 in taxes on it last year.

## ***Farm Once Owned by Abraham Lincoln is Now Well Marked***

1923

People who travel what is known as the "Bottom" road to Schleswig can not fail to notice the large boulder and copper inscription that has been placed in the northeast corner of section 18, the farm once owned by Abraham Lincoln, and now the property of Jurgen Jepsen. The Denison chapter D. A. R. has caused to be erected this fine monument, and Mr. Jepsen will see to it that the stone is not molested in any way. The boulder will weigh in the neighborhood of two tons, and it is very well shaped. On the upper side is a copper plate, on which has been inscribed in raised letters the following:

### **LAND GRANT**

made to

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

for services rendered

in the

**BLACK HAWK WAR 1832**

(Emblem)

Marked by

**DENISON CHAPTER D. A. R.**

1923

It is understood the ladies of the Denison chapter will officially dedicate the monument later on, at which time services of a public nature will no doubt be held.

—†—



# WILL UNVEIL AND DEDICATE TABLET ON LINCOLN FARM

*DENISON IOWA REVIEW*

Denison Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution Will Dedicate Memorial Tablet Friday

*JUNE 11, 1924*

EXERCISES AT THREE O'CLOCK

Program to be Carried Out, and Mr. R. Shaw Van Will Deliver An Address at Jurgen Jepsen Farm

On next Friday afternoon the Denison Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will hold unveiling services for the memorial tablet erected on the last once owned by Abraham Lincoln, now the property of Jurgen Jepsen, in Goodrich township.

The program will be given at 3 o'clock, and is as follows:

- Bugle call by John Holtorf, Jr.
- Invocation by Chapter Chaplain.
- Short Sketch by Regent.
- Music, Star Spangled Banner.
- Address, by R. Shaw Van.
- Unveiling by Misses Fern Richardson and Zella Gilmore.
- America, by Audience.

A large boulder has been moved to a corner of the 150 acres of land, which was granted by the government to Abraham Lincoln, now owned by Mr. Jepsen and on this boulder the ladies of the D. A. R. have caused to be placed a copper plate, bearing the following inscription:

LAND GRANT

made to

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

for services rendered  
in the

BLACK HAWK WAR, 1832

(Emblem)

Marked by

DENISON CHAPTER D. A. R.  
1923

The huge boulder weighs in the neighborhood of two tons, and may be seen from the road, as one goes or comes from Schleswig, using the valley road. It is well shaped, and makes a splendid marker. Mr. Jepsen consented to placing the boulder on the land and he will see that the stone is not molested in any way. We understand the services next Friday are public and all are invited to attend.

## LINCOLN TABLET PLACED ON LAND NEAR DENISON

Daughters of American Revolution Dedicate Marker on Tract Once Owned by Martyred President—Land Was Given to Lincoln For Indian War Service. *1924*

Special to Times-Republican.

Denison, June 16.—Abraham Lincoln was honored by the membership of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Denison by the placing of a tablet on a huge boulder upon the piece of land he once owned in this county, which came to him for services performed in the Black Hawk war in 1832. There were appropriate exercises with prayer, singing, address and unveiling of the tablet. The address was made by R. Shaw Van, of Denison. The body of land is five miles northwest of Denison on the road to Schleswig. It has been known as the "Lincoln land" for many years, but no special recognition was given it as a historical landmark until the patriotic society decided upon the plan to put up the tablet, which was just dedicated. The boulder weighs over two tons. The tablet is of copper and has upon it: "Land grant made to Abraham Lincoln for services rendered in the Black Hawk war, 1823. Marked by Denison chapter D. A. R., 1924."

## LINCOLN OWNED A FARM AT DENISON

HOMESTEAD SOLD BY HIS SON,  
ROBERT LINCOLN, IN 1892,  
FOR ONLY \$1,300.

Special to The Daily Nonpareil.

Denison, Ia., Feb. 18.—At this time, when every community in the land is laying some personal claim to Abraham Lincoln, it is noted that Crawford county has a claim in the fact that Lincoln at one time owned 120 acres of Crawford county land a short distance northwest of Denison. It was entered by Abraham Lincoln December 27, 1859, L. W. 68,645; patented to Lincoln September 10, 1860; sold March 22, 1892, by Robert Lincoln to Henry Edwards, a music teacher, now located in Omaha, for \$1,300; sold by Henry Edwards to E. T. Cochran April 25, 1892, for \$1,500; sold to Peter Jepsen by E. T. Cochran on October 20, 1892, for \$1,925, who is the present owner. Mr. Jepsen has refused \$100 an acre for the land, but it is not for sale.

## LINCOLN MEMORIAL MONUMENT UNVEIL- ED LAST WEDNES.

Daughters of American Revolution in Charge of Exercises at Farm Now Owned by Jurgen Jepsen

R. SHAW VAN MAKES ADDRESS

Farm Where Boulder is Placed Said to be the Only One Ever Owned

by Abraham Lincoln  
*DENISON REVIEW*

*JUNE 18, 1924*

On last Wednesday afternoon the local Daughters of the American Revolution formally unveiled the monument they had erected upon the 120 acre tract of land formerly owned by Abraham Lincoln, five miles northwest of the city. About forty people were present to enjoy the impressive exercises of prayer, singing, addresses and unveiling of the tablet. The program was in charge of Mrs. S. G. Wright and Mrs. Carl B. Richardson.

The address was made by R. Shaw Van, who paid a fitting tribute to the ladies for the important part they are now taking in our government. He stated that the old saying, "A woman's place is in the home," is now a thing of the past for the womanhood of this country have proven that they can render valuable assistance in the affairs of government. He paid high tribute to the D. A. R. organization for their patriotic work in marking places of historical interest throughout the length and breadth of the land and the effect that it will have upon future generations.

The D. A. R. organization had a large boulder weighing more than two tons placed on the Abraham Lincoln farm, which is now owned by Jurgen Jepsen. A bronze tablet bearing this inscription, "Land grant made to Abraham Lincoln for services rendered in the Black Hawk war. Marked by Denison chapter D. A. R., 1924" is set into the granite boulder with concrete. Mr. Jepsen has set off a space on the land for the monument and will see that it is given the proper care and attention.

The Lincoln farm as it is commonly known in this locality has been a point of interest for years. Of recent years many tourists traveling over the Lincoln highway have taken occasion to drive out and see this farm which is said to be the only farm ever owned by Abraham Lincoln. Title to this farm has only passed four or five times since the original grant from the government to Abraham Lincoln.

Feb 18, 1939  
Please Return to  
Wm Atkins

CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE: S

### A LINE O' TYPE OR TWO

Feb 18 39 Lincolniana in Iowa.

Regarding Lincoln: Last summer I had some research workers digging around in the old Pottawattamie county records in Council Bluffs, Ia., and here's what they found:

Lincoln loaned \$3,000 to a certain gentleman from Illinois. In return he took a quitclaim deed to certain parcels of land in Council Bluffs [Kanesville] which now constitute the Union Pacific transfer. A few months before this happened, Lincoln had stood on the bluff there and pointed out where the Union Pacific transfer *should* be located. In all, Lincoln owned twelve or thirteen parcels of land in Council Bluffs.

Lincoln was also one of those rare individuals to whom the government gave *two* farms for service in the Black Hawk war. The first was located in Cedar county, Ia., and upon his plea that he had lost it because he hadn't enough money to pay taxes on it the government gave him another farm, located about five miles west of what is now Denison, Ia.

When the Rutledge family moved to Iowa, shortly after Ann's death [her mother is buried in Iowa], Lincoln appointed her brother to public office and continued him in various offices.

Donfarran.



*Lincoln Evening Courier*

*April 7, 1939*

## HISTORICAL LINCOLN LETTER DISCOVERED

Tucked away in a little booklet of the 1860 census of the United States, a historically valuable letter was found Thursday among the files in the office of County Clerk C. C. Tull.

The booklet had been owned by John Jenkins, county clerk, in the sixties. The letter, addressed to Clerk Jenkins, was from Justice David Davis, of the U. S. Supreme court, former local judge, directing that Jenkins pay the taxes on Abraham Lincoln's town lot, located on the south side of the courthouse square. He promised to reimburse the clerk when he saw him a short time later.

The letter was written in April 1865, a short time after Mr. Lincoln's assassination. It was written from Washington on black bordered mourning paper. Justice Davis was an executor of President Lincoln's estate. He also served as acting vice president for a time.

The census gave Logan county a population of 14,276 in 1860, a gain of 9,148 over Logan county's population of 5,128 in 1850.

Judge L. B. Stringer has placed the Davis letter among his valuable papers relating to Abraham Lincoln.

Continued on Page 2.

## Lincoln Home Deed Stolen From Library

~~1940~~ 1939

Chicago, Aug. 29. (INS)—Somewhere in the country tonight, a thief is at large with the deed to Abraham Lincoln's Illinois home in his possession. Since he can hardly show it to his friends or sell it, police are wondering what he will do with it.

The deed, given Lincoln by his parents, along with signed letters of Gen. U. S. Grant and Gen. John A. Logan, and an affidavit bearing Lincoln's name, was stolen July 29, from the G.A.R. room of the Chicago public library.

Mr. Warren:

This abstract of the deed from Judd to Lincoln I made from the deed records at Council Bluffs. You know of course that Judd and Lincoln were close friends. This deed was in reality a mortgage I understand, taken for a loan by Lincoln to Judd.

N.B. Judd, and wife Adaline R. Judd,  
of Cook County Illinois,  
To ( ) QUIT CLAIM DEED

ABRAHAM LINCOLN,  
of Sangamon County Illinois,

Dated November 11th. 1859.

Acknowledged before Enoch G. Hook Notary Public Cook County Illinois  
November 11th. 1859.

Filed for Record February 14th. 1860, Recorded Book O page 443 Records  
Deeds Pottawottamie County Iowa.  
Consideration Three Thousand dollars cash receipt of which is acknowledged.

CONVEYS,

Lots 2 and 3, Block One  
Lots 8 and 9 Block Seven  
Lots 3 and 4 Block six  
Lot 3 in Block 12  
Lots 7 and 8 Block Eleven  
Lots 15 and 16 Block fourteen  
Lot 6 in Block Two  
Lot 5 in Block Nineteen  
Lots 11-12--3-and 4 Block Sixteen  
all in Riddle's Subdivision of the N.E. 1/4 of S.W. 1/4 section 36  
Township 75 North of Range 44 West in Council Bluffs Pottawottamie  
County Iowa.

Also 1/16th. interest of s.w. 1/4 section 34 Township 75 N. of  
Range 44 W. situated in County of Pottawottamie and State of Iowa  
aforesaid containing Ten acres except so much as heretofore  
deeded for Right of way for Mississippi and Missouri Railway.

As the record stands it appears that the title still stands in Lincoln's name. I cannot positively so state, but I did make a pretty thorough search for release or reconveyance. It is my information that there was a release executed by a temporary Administrator appointed for the express purpose of making the reconveyance, but I found no record of such, nor did I learn where nor when such temporary administrator was appointed.

And in the matter of Administrators, I believe if I correctly recall Judge David Davis was the regular administrator of the Lincoln estate. I once made it a point to examine the administration papers in the Probate Judge's office at Springfield, for the following reason.

Our friend Dr. Schmidt once told me this story, which I shall never forget, he said that a very intelligent lady of advancing age told him the story. She he stated was in the employ of one of the important financial institutions of Springfield, but he could not recall just which; and that he for the life of him could not remember the name of the narrator. Here is the story as he told to me, and positively do I know that it was the story told to him. It was this That after the election of Lincoln a large distilling firm made him a present of a barrel of whisky. That he never opened it, but had it buried in his back yard prior to his departure to Washington to be inaugurated. That at the time of his demise that the barrel was still immured where interred. That the administrator had it dug up and placing it in bottles sold it out, and that her father pur-



# OMAHA AUTO CLUB

## OFFICERS

H. A. JACOBBERGER, PRESIDENT  
J. B. WATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT  
REED O'HANLON, SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT  
HARRY S. BYRNE, SECRETARY-TREASURER  
JOHN A. RINE, COUNSEL

AFFILIATED WITH AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION



OMAHA, NEBRASKA

## DIRECTORS

G. H. BREWER	LEE HUFF, SR.
HARRY S. BYRNE	H. A. JACOBBERGER
W. B. CHEEK	REED O'HANLON
WALTER F. COZAD	JOHN A. RINE
GOULD DIETZ	ARTHUR C. STORZ
HARRY L. FRIDLEY	DR. W. H. TAYLOR
BYRON R. HASTINGS	ROBERT S. TRIMBLE
J. B. WATKINS	

PHONE JACKSON 2469

A. B. CALDWELL, MANAGER

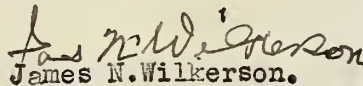
chased some of the bottles. That he treasured it so much that he never consumed any of it save on occasion when entertaining special friends, and that he always served it sparingly and with ritualistic ceremonial.

I never again had an opportunity to discuss the subject with the dear doctor, but I did search diligently in Springfield for the possible location of the lady quoted by the doctor, but no one could give me any idea whom she may have been. In the search in the probate records there appears no mention nor reference to any sales report containing such material. The Probate judge was an ardent Lincoln admirer, but had never heard the story he said until I related it to him.

His father had held the same office that he was occupying during the war, and he related some most interesting matters that he had learned from his father about Grant who had headquarters with him during the earlier times of the civil war, before Grant became appointed general. The court house at Lincoln when I was there was the same one that was in use in those days when Grant was in Springfield training recruits.

Had you ever heard the story related above as told me by Dr. Schmidt? What do you think of it. I cannot figure it out. Of course neither of us can possibly doubt him; and since he had confidence in his informant it is difficult to disbelieve her story; then too it is unthinkable that Judge David Davis as administrator of the Lincoln estate should have disposed of so important item of the assets of the estate as that relic should have been without making a report of sale to the court.

Sincerely,

  
James N. Wilkerson.

*Please Return to  
Wm Atkins*

PHONE MOHAWK 3040

# Hotel Lincoln

FIREPROOF  
—  
300 ROOMS  
EACH ROOM EQUIPPED WITH  
BATH AND SHOWER



ALL OUTSIDE ROOMS  
—  
PERSONAL SUPERVISION  
THOMAS HENNESSEY  
PRES. AND MANAGER

1816 N. CLARK STREET

CHICAGO



FACING LINCOLN PARK

*See also Lincoln Love Bulletin #475*

May 29, 1940

William Atkins, Esq.  
829 Pekin Street,  
Lincoln, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Atkins:

This is a long-delayed answer to your letter of April 25, 1940, addressed to the Librarian, Chicago TRIBUNE, in which you request further publication by the LINE O' TYPE column of facts concerned with their publication of my material therein under date of February 18, 1939 on the subject of Lincoln.

I enclose herewith transcriptions of the material as follows:

Lincoln Collection (contents) in the  
Pottawattamie County courthouse (Iowa)

Copy of recorded Deed of property to  
Abraham Lincoln in Council Bluffs, Iowa.  
(Listing and locating all lots, etc.)

Facts established concerning Lincoln's  
property in Council Bluffs, Iowa, etc.

Copies of these transcriptions have been given the State Historical Society (Dr. Paul Angle) at Springfield, Illinois. I also have blue-print copies of plats showing exact location of all Lincoln properties in Council Bluffs. These have been copied by Dr. Angle for the Illinois Historical Society. My copies are being given to the Chicago Historical Society in a short time.

Trusting this material will be of value to you, I remain

Sincerely yours,

*Don Farran*  
Don Farran

cc- Charles Collins,  
Linemaster, A LINE O' TYPE OR TWO,  
Chicago Illinois

*I wonder if you may be interested in Pierre Puget's new etching of A. Lincoln.  
Size - 11 x 14 inches (plate size) - genuine etching from his press - at \$5.00?  
Copy can be sent you on approval, if you wish to see it. D.F.*

TURDAY. FEBRUARY 18. 1939.



COPY OF RECORDED DEED OF PROPERTY TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA

(Map of Riddle's Addition,  
Plat Book K, p. 18)

(Vol. O, Lands, p 443  
Recorder's office, Council Bluffs)

"THIS INDENTURE made this eleventh day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine, between Norman S. Judd, and Adaline R. Judd, his wife, of the County of Cook, and State of Illinois, party of the first part, and Abraham Lincoln, of Springfield, County of Sangamon, and State of Illinois, party of the second part, witnesseth that the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of three thousand dollars in hand paid by the party of the second part, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and the party of the second part forever released and discharged therefrom, have remised, released, sold, conveyed and quit claimed, and by these presents do remise, release, sell, convey and quit claim unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever, all right, title, interest, claim and demand which the said party of the first part have in and to the following described lots, pieces or parcels of land, to wit:

Lots Numbers 2 and 3 in Block Number 1  
Lots Numbers 8 and 9 in Block Number 7  
Lots Numbers 3 and 4 in Block Number 6  
Lot Number 3 - - - in Block Number 12  
Lots Numbers 7 and 8 in Block Number 11  
Lots Numbers 15 and 16 in Block Number 14  
Lots Numbers 11, 12, 3 and 4 in Blocks Number 16  
*Lot Number 6 - - - in Block Number 2*

in Riddle's subdivision of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 36 in township 75 North, Range 44 West, in Council Bluffs, in the county of Pottawattamie, and State of Iowa. Also undivided one-sixteenth of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 34 in the township 75 North, Range 44 West, situated in the County of Pottawattamie, and State of Iowa, aforesaid, and containing ten acres, except as much as may be deeded for right-of-way to the Mississippi and Missouri Railroad, to have and to hold same together with all and singular appurtenances and privileges thereto belonging or in anywise thereto appertaining, and all the estate, right, title, interest and claim whatever of the party of the first part in law or equity, to the only proper use, benefit and behoof of the party of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever.

In witness whereof the said party of the first part hereunto set their hand and seal the date first before written.

(Signed)

N. B. JUDD  
ADALINE R. JUDD

Sealed and delivered in the  
presence of E. G. Hooker



FACTS ESTABLISHED CONCERNING LINCOLN'S PROPERTY

IN COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA

---

Real estate acquired by Abraham Lincoln by virtue of a quit claim deed issued by one N. B. Judd, of Cook County, Illinois, November 11, 1859, consisted of seventeen lots in Riddle's Addition, Council Bluffs, Ia., and the "undivided sixteenth of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 34 in the township 75 North Range 44 West, situated in Pottawattamie County, and State of Iowa."

The entire block of real estate, and the 10 acre tract west of the city of Council Bluffs, remained in the possession of Lincoln and his heirs until August 10, 1867, when quit claim deeds were issued by his widow, Mary Lincoln, and his son, Robert T. Lincoln, in favor of Norman B. Judd. In these quit claim deeds is found the information that the original quit claim deed from Judd to Lincoln "was intended as appears by a defeasance of even date, (Nov. 11, 1859) therewith to operate as a mortgage to secure the payment of the sum of three thousand dollars, with interest thereon at the rate of 10% (ten per cent) per annum, payable in five years, from the first day of September, 1859; which said sum, with interest thereon, has been duly paid." At the time these quit claims were issued, Robert Lincoln was twenty-one years of age, but his younger brother, Thomas, was but fourteen years old. Consequently, to secure clear title to the land, Mr. Judd sued Thomas Lincoln, in the District Court of Pottawattamie County, Iowa, for what appears to be a release of a mortgage on the property in question. A guardian, D. C. Bloomer, of Council Bluffs, was appointed for Thomas Lincoln, and the case was heard on January 27, 1868, at which time the court found for the plaintiff, and instructed a commissioner's deed to be issued to Judd in the name of Thomas Lincoln. This was done by Morris P. Brewer, special commissioner appointed by the court.

The city lots changed hands many times in the next few years, but the ten acre tract of land remained in N.B. Judd's name until September 13, 1905, when quit claim deeds were issued by the surviving heirs of N.B. Judd, a son and a daughter, Edward J. Judd, and Mary M. Gould, both of Seneca County, New York. (No city given.) The deed is very simply worded, and is as follows:

"

Seneca County, New York.

Sept. 13, 1905.

Mary M. Gould and husband, Seabury S. Gould,

to

Oscar Herman.

Mary M. Gould, and Seabury S. Gould, wife and husband, Mary M. Gould and her brother, Edward J. Judd, being the only children and sole heirs of Norman B. Judd, now deceased, for the sum of one and no/one-hundredths dollars, hereby quit claim to Oscar Herman, of the county of Pottawattamie and State of Iowa, the following real estate situated in the county of Pottawattamie and State of Iowa.

The undivided sixteenth interest in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section Number Thirty-four, Township Number seventy-five, Range Number forty-four west of the 5th P. M.

Mary M. Gould,  
Seabury S. Gould."



The deed signed by the son, Edward J. Judd, and his wife, Carrie W. Judd, is identical with the exception of the consideration, which in this case is five dollars.

It will be noted that the word "interest" is inserted after "undivided sixteenth" in these deeds, and that it does not appear either in the original deed from Judd to Lincoln, nor in the deeds from the Lincoln heirs to Judd.

The exact location of this ten acres (one-sixteenth of a quarter section), is not given in these deeds, but it is assumed to have been a part of the north half of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  34-75-44, as these papers have been filed with all other copies of documents connected with the north half of the quarter-section mentioned, in the offices of the Abstract Guarantee Company, 5th Avenue and Pearl Sts., Council Bluffs, Ia. Also these quit claim deeds from the children of Norman B. Judd were issued shortly after the north half of the aforementioned quarter-section was cleared of a long time mortgage, and about the time the Union Pacific acquired title.

The entire quarter-section, 160 acres, SW $\frac{1}{4}$  34-75-44, was entered in the Council Bluffs Land Office in the name of Samuel M. Ballard, on July 30, 1853, and a - was granted Ballard on same on January 3, 1854.

Samuel W. Ballard sold to Hamilton W. White "an undivided half of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  34-75-44" on Dec. 18, 1860.

Heirs of Hamilton White sold "an undivided half of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  34-75-44 to Stillman W. Wheelock, March 10, 1868.

Stillman W. Wheelock sold right-of-way to the Union Pacific Railroad through this land on March 16, 1872.

Stillman W. Wheelock and wife issued quit claim to "the undivided north half of SW $\frac{1}{4}$  34-75-44, and portion of the south half of SW $\frac{1}{4}$  34-75-44 lying north of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks," to Samuel Ballard, March 2, 1877, (\$850).

Executor's Deed (Mrs. Ballard and Wm. Pusey) to City of Council Bluffs, 66' of land extending east through the "north half of SW $\frac{1}{4}$  34-75-44" for a street, Nov. 8, 1886.

Executor's Deed, Ballard estate, to a syndicate of business men (8 men, 6 of them Omaha men), 79.07 acres "situate in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 34, Twp. 75, R. 44 - - - all that part lying north of the Union Pacific right-of-way excepting the part deeded to the City of Council Bluffs". The consideration was \$200 per acre, of which \$5,000 was paid down, and a mortgage to Mrs. Ballard for \$10,542.66 for the balance, November 5, 1886.

Numerous transfers were made thereafter, and assignments of the mortgage, which was finally fully released Sept. 2, 1903.

All members of the syndicate sold their interest to Nathan Merriam, of Omaha, eventually, who was one of the original eight owners, the last of these selling in May, 1890.

The exact date of the acquirement of title by the Union Pacific is not available at this time, as much litigation caused some delay, according to the abstractor who assisted in securing the foregoing information.

The city tax list (Council Bluffs) for 1859 shows "N. B. Judd" as owner of the seventeen lots in Riddle's Addition, with tax marked "paid". The description of the ten acres is given, but no owner is shown. Earlier tax records do not show the name of Judd, nor do either Lands or Town Lots in the Recorder's office, according to the indexes. Transfer books showed nothing.

The abstractor states that they have not been able to find where Judd acquired title to the property originally, but his title was considered perfect after the decision of the District Court judge in his favor in his suit against Thomas Lincoln for quit claim to the property, in 1868.



*See Lincoln Lore Bulletin No. 475.*

Council Bluffs, -- Pottawattamie County Courthouse

Lincoln Collection, 1859 (1860-1863) 1892. 10 entries in 6 volumes. Arranged chronologically. Basement, vault; in two letter files (30 x 24 x 12). May be consulted by permission of Judge John P. Tinley.

The entries show a record of: real estate transactions by Abraham Lincoln in Pottawattamie County, 1859-65; Robert Lincoln's name also appears in connection with this property, and also land in Crawford County; notes on tax payments, service charges, dates and title to property.

Abraham Lincoln, Robert Lincoln

*Copy Courtesy of  
Don Sarran  
1940*

~~Decatur, Iowa~~  
Rev. T. W. Chisholm and family came to Decatur from Toledo, Iowa. Knowing that we are interested in stories about Lincoln Mrs. Chisholm brought to the office a copy of their former home town newspaper, The Toledo (Tama county) Chronicle, which gives records of conveyancing of Tama county land to Abraham Lincoln.

One record shows a certified copy of the original patent dated June 1, 1855, signed by President Franklin Pierce, conveying to Abraham Lincoln, captain of the Fourth Illinois Volunteers, Blackhawk War, 40 acres. On April 16, 1874, Mary Lincoln (widow) deeded this land to Robert T. Lincoln, and December 1, 1874, Robert T. Lincoln deeded the land to Adam Brecht, father of the present owner, Nettle M. Berry. This land is 4 miles southeast of Garwin.

Carl Sandburg tells of this grant of land in his life of Lincoln, entitled, "The Prairie Years."

# When Lincoln, an Iowa Land-Owner, Defend

(Excerpts from an address by Dr. William J. Petersen, superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa, before the joint session of the Iowa General Assembly on Friday, Feb. 11.)

IN 1850, and again in 1855, congress passed laws granting bounties of land to persons who had rendered services in the armies of the United States.

Abraham Lincoln, having served in the Black Hawk war, was granted three land warrants. He selected two of these land warrants in Iowa, striking testimony of his high regard for the future prospects of the Hawkeye state. The first Iowa land allotted him was a 40-acre improved tract in Tama county, fourteen miles northwest of Toledo. The land was worth \$10 per acre when Lincoln acquired it and the taxes were only \$1.60 in 1858. The warrant was issued to him on April 16, 1852, and the patent granted on June 1, 1855. After Lincoln's death this property was sold by his heirs.



LINCOLN.

His second Iowa military land warrant

was a 120 acre tract in Crawford county eight miles northwest of Denison. This land was sold by Robert Todd Lincoln in 1892 for \$1,300. In 1923 the Denison chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution erected a boulder and copper plate upon this land as a reminder that it was once owned by Abraham Lincoln.

In addition to his two military land warrants, Lincoln acquired certain small parcels of land in and near Council Bluffs from Norman B. Judd in 1859. These lots were held by Lincoln at the time of his death, and in 1867 the Lincoln heirs reconveyed them to Mr. Judd.

\* \* \*

## RAILROAD LAWYER.

Next let us turn to Lincoln as an able railroad lawyer, whose services were much in demand by such corporations as the Illinois Central and the Rock Island railroads. One of his most famous railroad cases deals with the wreck of the steamboat Effie Afton on the Rock Island bridge in 1856. Although there is no evidence that Lincoln visited Iowa on the occasion of his defense of the Rock Island Bridge company against the steamboat interests in 1857, the importance of his contribution to Iowa history, to rail-

road history, and indeed to the westward movement, can scarcely be overemphasized.

## BRIDGE ACCIDENT.

The story briefly runs as follows:

On February 22, 1854, the iron horse of the Rock Island railroad reached the Mississippi opposite Davenport—the first railroad to link the Mississippi with the Atlantic. Anxious to gain easy access to the fertile prairies of Iowa, a bridge was completed between Rock Island and Davenport in April, 1856, despite the strong opposition of Secretary of War Jefferson Davis who favored the southern route.

On May 6th the steamboat Effie Afton, while attempting to go through the Illinois side of the drawbridge, smashed against the pier, caught on fire, and was completely destroyed. The flames also consumed the wooden span east of the drawbridge putting the bridge out of commission fully four months.

\* \* \*

The steamboat owners promptly brought suit against the bridge company and the case was tried in the United States Circuit Court in Chicago in September, 1857. During the voluminous testimony bitter feelings were exhibited on both sides.

## ded the Rock Island Railroad

### TRIAL ARGUMENT.

Lincoln himself remained calm throughout the trial, stating according to the original report in the *Chicago Daily Press* of September 24, 1857, that he expected "to grow earnest as he proceeded but not ill-natured." . . . The last thing that would be pleasing to him," he assured the jury, "would be to have one of these great channels, extending almost from where it never freezes to where it never thaws, block up. But there is a travel from east to west," he pointed out, "whose demands are not less important than that of the river. It is growing larger and larger, building up new countries with a rapidity never before seen in the history of the world."

He alluded to the astonishing growth of Illinois, having grown within his memory to a population of a million and a half; to Iowa and the other young and rising communities of the Northwest.

"Railroad travel," Lincoln asserted, "had its rights, just as much as steamboat travel." If the Mississippi had not acquired its advantage in "priority and legislation," Lincoln contended, the railroad could enter into "free competition" with it and readily surpass it. By way of illustration, Lincoln pointed to the 12,586 freight cars and 74,179 passengers that

had passed over the Rock Island bridge in eleven months. "This shows," Lincoln concluded, "that this bridge must be treated with respect in this court and is not to be kicked about with contempt."

\* \* \*

### MEMORIAL.

Lincoln made a second important contribution to the history of railroading in Iowa and America when, as president of the United States, he was confronted with the problem of locating the eastern terminus of the Union Pacific. While stopping at Council Bluffs in 1859, he had met Grenville M. Dodge, who had just completed extensive railroad surveys west of the Missouri for the Rock Island railroad. Lincoln remembered this visit when congress passed the act providing for a transcontinental railroad, and promptly called General Dodge to the White House for a conference.

These two conferences with Grenville M. Dodge, more perhaps than anything else, fixed Council Bluffs as the eastern terminus of the Union Pacific.

A memorial to Lincoln has been erected on the bluff overlooking the Missouri river, where he and his Iowa friends stood in 1859 and looked westward over the great plains of Nebraska.



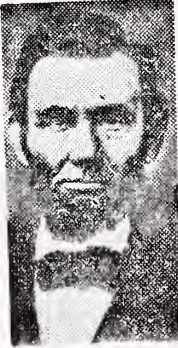


# When Lincoln, an Iowa Land-Owner, Defended

(Excerpts from an address by Dr. William J. Petersen, superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa, before the joint session of the Iowa General Assembly on Friday, Feb. 11.)

IN 1850, and again in 1855, congress passed laws granting bounties of land to persons who had rendered services in the armies of the United States.

Abraham Lincoln, having served in the Black Hawk war, was granted three land warrants. He selected two of these land warrants in Iowa, striking testimony of his high regard for the future prospects of the Hawkeye state. The first Iowa land allotted him was a 40-acre improved tract in Tama county, fourteen miles northwest of Toledo. The land was worth \$10 per acre when Lincoln acquired it and the taxes were only \$1.60 in 1858. The warrant was issued to him on April 16, 1852, and the patent granted on June 1, 1855. After Lincoln's death this property was sold by his heirs.



LINCOLN.

His second Iowa military land warrant

was a 120 acre tract in Crawford county eight miles northwest of Denison. This land was sold by Robert Todd Lincoln in 1892 for \$1,300. In 1923 the Denison chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution erected a boulder and copper plate upon this land as a reminder that it was once owned by Abraham Lincoln.

In addition to his two military land warrants, Lincoln acquired certain small parcels of land in and near Council Bluffs from Norman B. Judd in 1859. These lots were held by Lincoln at the time of his death, and in 1867 the Lincoln heirs reconveyed them to Mr. Judd.

\* \* \*

## RAILROAD LAWYER.

Next let us turn to Lincoln as an able railroad lawyer, whose services were much in demand by such corporations as the Illinois Central and the Rock Island railroads. One of his most famous railroad cases deals with the wreck of the steamboat Effie Afton on the Rock Island bridge in 1856. Although there is no evidence that Lincoln visited Iowa on the occasion of his defense of the Rock Island Bridge company against the steamboat interests in 1857, the importance of his contribution to Iowa history, to rail-

road history, and indeed to the westward movement, can scarcely be overemphasized.

## BRIDGE ACCIDENT.

The story briefly runs as follows:

On February 22, 1854, the iron horse of the Rock Island railroad reached the Mississippi opposite Davenport—the first railroad to link the Mississippi with the Atlantic. Anxious to gain easy access to the fertile prairies of Iowa, a bridge was completed between Rock Island and Davenport in April, 1856, despite the strong opposition of Secretary of War Jefferson Davis who favored the southern route.

On May 6th the steamboat Effie Afton, while attempting to go through the Illinois side of the drawbridge, smashed against the pier, caught on fire, and was completely destroyed. The flames also consumed the wooden span east of the drawbridge putting the bridge out of commission fully four months.

\* \* \*

The steamboat owners promptly brought suit against the bridge company and the case was tried in the United States Circuit Court in Chicago in September, 1857. During the voluminous testimony bitter feelings were exhibited on both sides.

# ded the Rock Island Railroad

## TRIAL ARGUMENT.

Lincoln himself remained calm throughout the trial, stating according to the original report in the *Chicago Daily Press* of September 24, 1857, that he expected "to grow earnest as he proceeded but not ill-natured." . . . The last thing that would be pleasing to him," he assured the jury, "would be to have one of these great channels, extending almost from where it never freezes to where it never thaws, block up. But there is a travel from east to west," he pointed out, "whose demands are not less important than that of the river. It is growing larger and larger, building up new countries with a rapidity never before seen in the history of the world."

He alluded to the astonishing growth of Illinois, having grown within his memory to a population of a million and a half; to Iowa and the other young and rising communities of the Northwest.

"Railroad travel," Lincoln asserted, "had its rights, just as much as steamboat travel." If the Mississippi had not acquired its advantage in "priority and legislation," Lincoln contended, the railroad could enter into "free competition" with it and readily surpass it. By way of illustration, Lincoln pointed to the 12,586 freight cars and 74,179 passengers that

had passed over the Rock Island bridge in eleven months. "This shows," Lincoln concluded, "that this bridge must be treated with respect in this court and is not to be kicked about with contempt."

\* \* \*

## MEMORIAL.

Lincoln made a second important contribution to the history of railroading in Iowa and America when, as president of the United States, he was confronted with the problem of locating the eastern terminus of the Union Pacific. While stopping at Council Bluffs in 1859, he had met Grenville M. Dodge, who had just completed extensive railroad surveys west of the Missouri for the Rock Island railroad. Lincoln remembered this visit when congress passed the act providing for a transcontinental railroad, and promptly called General Dodge to the White House for a conference.

These two conferences with Grenville M. Dodge, more perhaps than anything else, fixed Council Bluffs as the eastern terminus of the Union Pacific.

A memorial to Lincoln has been erected on the bluff overlooking the Missouri river, where he and his Iowa friends stood in 1859 and looked westward over the great plains of Nebraska.



# Lincoln Land

Abe's real estate holdings included tracts in Illinois and Iowa, one of which adjoined that of C. L. Vallandigham, Copperhead leader from Dayton

By LLOYD OSTENDORF

No one has ever attempted to place the many-sided Abraham Lincoln in the role of a real estate tycoon or land baron, but stories regarding his modest land holdings are occasionally heard. Interestingly enough, some Lincoln acreage in Iowa was alongside land owned by Congressman Clement Laid Vallandigham, a Civil War Democrat from Dayton and an outspoken opponent of Lincoln's administration.

This unique connection of land ownership was revealed by a friend of Lincoln's, Major General Grenville M. Dodge, in his obscure privately printed personal recollections of 1914, claiming that Lincoln's acreage in the Iowa Riddle Tract was joined by his bitter antagonist, Vallandigham.

Dayton was the home of this nation's chief Copperhead leader, Congressman Vallandigham. Lincoln respected his scholarly enemy for a while to denounce the war effort, excite draft riots,

Vallandigham was branded by Lincoln as a "wily agitator," and finally banished to the South after his military arrest in Dayton. Vallandigham made his way to Canada, and though in exile, made a good race for the office of governor of Ohio in 1863, but was defeated.

Before he had assumed his duties as the Civil War president, Lincoln's earlier life reveals some unusual episodes of interest in land buying and speculation. It evolved quite naturally with his early profession in Illinois as a land surveyor in the 1830s. Later in 1849 after his surveying experience, he eagerly sought a government land office appointment but was rejected. He wrote many letters to his friends trying to obtain aid in the land office appointment, including an appeal in May 1849 to Robert C. Schenck, a Daytonian with whom he served in Congress.

POSSIBLY LINCOLN'S first venture in land and property ownership was in New Salem, Ill., in 1832 when, in partnership with William F. Berry, he purchased a small store. Unfortunately, by 1833 his grocery store business failed and his partner died. Lincoln lost the store and assumed all of his late partner's debts of \$1,100. Lincoln often called it his "national debt" and it took Honest Abe all of eight years to pay back all the creditors.

As a Sangamon county deputy surveyor in 1836, young Lincoln purchased a 47-acre tract of land on the Sangamon river at \$1.25 per acre. The land was located 12 miles northwest of New Salem where he was then residing. Just what Lincoln's purpose for this considerable investment was for has never become known. But like many in the area, Lincoln helped to try and make the Sangamon river navigable for trade but it never materialized.

It was in the spring of 1836 that Lincoln surveyed the townsite of Huron, Ill.

In return for his services he received title to several lots. It is not known how many lots he received or how long they remained in his possession, but the Menard county tax returns show that the Huron property was still on the books in his name after 1839. Lincoln never received any income nor profit from his Huron lots.

Illinois is rightfully called "the Land of Lincoln" since he did live most of his adult life there and owned his own home there in Springfield — the only home he ever owned. Lincoln made occasional speculations in his hometown, buying five more lots at intervals, two of which were situated across the street from his residence at the northeast corner of Eighth and Jackson Sts. In 1851 Lincoln acquired two lots in Bloomington, Ill., and retained them until 1856 when he sold them for \$400 at a reasonable profit.

Another land purchase was made in 1841 — 40 acres in Coles county, Illinois, to help his aged father retain his farm which consisted of 120 acres, but Lincoln deeded it back to his father as a gift.

In connection with a lot Lincoln acquired in connection with one on the south side of the courthouse square in the heart of Lincoln, Ill. Back in 1853 the town was named for him when it was first platted. In 1856 that lot was deeded by its owner, James Primm, to Lincoln in payment of a note that was due.

The Logan county sheriff at the City of Lincoln at that time was Lewis Rosenthal, who knew Lincoln very well. Rosenthal recalled the day in 1858 when Lincoln came into his tax collection office to pay his lot taxes. The sheriff, knowing



Vallandigham: His Iowa land next to Lincoln's.



Lincoln: Held military service bounty lands.

Lincoln would not care, had erected a shed on Lincoln's lot. While the receipt was being prepared, Lincoln looked out the courthouse window.

THE CONVERSATION went something like this:

"Say, Rosenthal, isn't that my lot over there?"

"Yes, it is."

"Well, who put that shed up there?"

"Well, a fellow in town here who had some extra horses and wanted a temporary stable put up that shed. The fellow is a good friend of yours."

"That's all right, but that fellow whoever he is, ought to pay my taxes. He is getting all the benefit out of the lot and I get none."

"Well, I know that fellow, Mr. Lincoln, and he won't pay a cent!"

"Well, who is he, anyway?"

"If you must know, I'm the fellow."

Lincoln looked at the sheriff a second or two, and with a twinkle in his eye, said, "Hand over the receipt. I guess I'm in for it!"

THE MOST SUBSTANTIAL amount of acreage Lincoln ever acquired was the result of his services as a captain and private in the Black Hawk war of 1832 — bounty lands to volunteers, to privates and officers alike. By 1852 Lincoln received a warrant for 40 acres in Tama county, Iowa, and 120 more acres in 1856 located in Crawford county, Iowa.

Apparently Lincoln never remarked to his law partner, William Herndon, that "he would die seized of the land" — and the hidden future here out his predilection. Lincoln did at one time, Aug. 12-15, 1859, get as far west as Council Bluffs, Iowa, and viewed from Cemetery hill the vast land to the north, south and west.

The Lincoln Iowa lands remained in the Lincoln family for years. The Tama county grant was sold by his son, Robert Todd Lincoln, in 1874, and the larger land grant near Denison, Iowa, sold for \$1,300 in 1892. A copper plate there still bears the identification of the land grant made to Abe Lincoln — land he must have had some satisfaction in owning for his military service, and which became a benefit to his heirs.

DAYTON LEISURE

## Attorney's license pulled over Lincoln land case

**By DAVE FOPAY, Staff Writer**

SPRINGFIELD -- Mattoon attorney L. Stanton Dotson won't be allowed to practice law for a year because of his handling of a case involving property in Coles County that Abraham Lincoln once owned.

The Illinois Supreme Court agreed with recommendations from Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission on the suspension, which begins April 8. Dotson also has another case before the commission that hasn't been resolved yet.

The court based its action on a commission report that said Dotson "intentionally and knowingly initiated a chain of deeds" to the Lincoln property to make it appear he had more of an interest in the land than he actually did. He sued Raymond Phipps of Springfield, who owned the land, and Phipps' defunct corporation and won the property at one point, only to see that reversed on appeal.

"I'm disappointed but I'm going to involve myself with hard, physical labor for a year," Dotson said when reached for comment Tuesday. He described that as "anything I can do," and added that he also plans to spend more time with his children.

"When one year's up, I'm going to come back and practice law," he said.

Dotson's other case with the state attorney commission is one where he's accused of sexually harassing female clients and other women at his Mattoon office, and the commission has also recommended a one-year license suspension in that case.

Peter Rotskoff, the commission's senior counsel, said the Supreme Court could add another suspension to the one in the Lincoln case if it agrees with the recommendation, or the suspensions could run at the same time. Dotson appealed the commission's recommendation in the sexual harassment case, Rotskoff said, and a hearing on that is yet to be scheduled.

Phipps inherited the property, located in southern Coles County next to Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site, that Lincoln bought from his father, Thomas Lincoln. During one of several attempts at promoting the site, Phipps sold souvenir deeds to square inches of the land, and Dotson purchased one.

Dotson said he eventually began paying property taxes on an entire acre of the land because he saw a public notice that Phipps was behind on the tax payments and he wanted to protect its historical value. After making the payments for a few years, Dotson drafted deeds to say it belonged to him and his family.

On Tuesday, he said he thought at the time it was something that needed to be done, "but I was wrong." He said the Supreme Court agreed with the attorney commission when it said he suffered a "blind spot" when it came to the Lincoln property.

"I regret ever having done anything regarding that acre," Dotson said.

Contacted at his Springfield home Tuesday, Phipps said he didn't want to comment on Dotson's law license suspension. Asked if the title to the land had been returned to him, he would only say that Dotson "is still trying to make difficulties" and he was leaving matters to authorities "and I'm sure justice will be seen."

Phipps referred other questions to John Baker, the attorney who represented him in Dotson's case against him, but Baker also had little to say. He did say Dotson "took a



long time to sign anything" but added that there was nothing else about the issue "I want to discuss publicly."

Asked for his reaction to what Phipps said, Dotson said he was "not ever going to respond to any comments from Mr. Phipps."

Coles County Supervisor of Assessments Jean Tipsword said Phipps is again the owner of record of the acre that was involved in the dispute.

Dotson said he plans to maintain his clients' records at his office at 1617 Wabash Ave. in Mattoon, but the clients can get their files and take them to other attorneys if they want. He said he'll notify clients with active cases that he's going to have to withdraw as their attorney.

"I've practiced law for about 40 years and six months and I've not had a vacation so I'm going to take a vacation," Dotson said. "It's involuntary but I don't have a choice."

Contact Dave Fopay 348-5733 or [dfopay@jg-tc.com](mailto:dfopay@jg-tc.com)

Print Page

## Boundaries of Farm Shown in Lincoln's Deed

*(Editor's Note: The Union Title News would like to thank Bert Wilhelm for forwarding the following article which he clipped from the Dale, Indiana, Reporter.)*

Abstracts and deeds used today to safeguard the many homes being built to relieve the current housing shortage are a far cry from the homespun document used to define the boundaries of the Knob Creek farm where Abraham Lincoln lived from 1811 to 1816. This document read:

### Knob Creek, 228 Acre Tract

1. Beginning with two sugar trees North 19 degrees, East 141 poles to a dogwood tree and ash tree corner to a 100 acre tract.

2. North 48 degrees, West 74 poles to a beech tree.

3. North 29 degrees, West 65 poles to a poplar tree on the east side of a hill.

4. North 58 poles to an ash tree.

5. South 76 degrees, West 105 poles to a white ash tree.

6. South 117 poles to a stake.

7. South 31 degrees, East 168 poles to a sugar tree.

8. South 70 degrees, East 54 poles to the beginning.

Abraham Lincoln said his father left Kentucky "chiefly on account of difficulty with land titles." Litigation over the above acreage was one of them.

The Knob Creek farm is the only tract of land on which Abraham Lincoln lived for any considerable time which has not become, in part at least, a national shrine. It was the playground of Lincoln and is probably the most picturesque of all the Lincoln homes.





